

## Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Jim Lefebvre's home: 8940 Vista Point Drive, Zimmerman, MN.

**Directors Present:** Bill Yueill (2017), George Golden (2017), Dan Dixon (2017), John Bistodeau (2018), Don Davies (2018), Don Herman (2019), Jim Lefebvre (2019)

**Also Attending:** Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) representatives, Todd Kulaf and Tiffany Determan

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

1. The primary focus of the meeting was to have a discussion with Todd Kulaf and Tiffany Determan, regarding the results of the SWCD 2016 studies and plans and proposals for the future.
  - a. In introducing the report, Tiffany noted that after two years of gathering data, the studies provides a much better understanding of the lake's health and water quality trends, helps us diagnose areas of concern and confirms the need to implement lake improvement projects. She noted that monitoring done by the MNPCA in 2013-2014 pointed towards the potential of putting lower Blue Lake on the impaired list by 2020.
  - b. Todd presented the results of the 2016 Lake Water Monitoring Report. BLID volunteers collected Total Phosphorus and transparency data every two weeks from May through September. SWCD staff collected Dissolved Oxygen and temperature data once a month during the same period. It was noted that the lower lake does not meet Clean Water goals for total phosphorus and chlorophyll, while transparency was acceptable. The graphs presented provided insight into how the lake responds over the season. Recommended continuation of monitoring and also working with SWCD to identify ways to minimize runoff from tributaries and lake shore properties.
  - c. Todd next presented the 2016 Tributary Monitoring Report. SWCD performed 8 sampling events at each of 4 tributaries. Samples were tested for total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and transparency. Water levels were recorded by in-stream data loggers every 4 hours from early April to mid-October. Three of the tributaries' results were close to or within typical ranges for this region. The tributary near the Tiger Street campgrounds recorded the highest readings due in part to a much larger watershed which includes an agricultural area. Recommended that this tributary be a starting point in which to focus water quality improvement projects.
  - d. Todd also presented the Watershed Assessment Report. He noted that the Blue Lake watershed covers over 7,000 acres primarily to the west and south of the lake. SWCD has researched a number of projects around the lake (urban) and

the greater watershed (rural) that can have a positive impact on reducing the inflow of phosphorus into the lake. Installing all of the recommended projects is unlikely due to funding limitations and landowner interest, so installation in order of cost-effectiveness was recommended. The report provided prioritization of potential lakeshore restoration projects around the lake with many of them focusing on correcting erosion and installing native vegetated buffers. For example, the top ranked project was the Stanford Township boat landing which, due to the sloping hillside to the lake, short vegetation and excess foot traffic has resulted in moderate to severe hillside erosion and gully formation.

- e. Todd presented the 2016 Curly Leaf Pondweed survey and the 2017-2020 plan. The survey maps provided a look at where weeds were found in April which became the map for treatment in May. In terms of the plan, SWCD will complete surveys each year during peak growth to document weed density and treatment success.
- f. Tiffany presented the recommended 2017 Lake Protection Plan which includes two major projects:
  - i. Direct Watershed Stormwater Treatment and Lakeshore Restoration - \$4,840 in SWCD cost share funds has been dedicated to install lakeshore restoration and/or stormwater treatment practices on Blue Lake. The funds must be matched by 25% from landowners (\$1,215). SWCD will cover design practices. SWCD will reach out to landowners to build a list of those interested in installing restoration projects on their shoreline and will prioritize to the extent that funding permits. SWCD will also submit a grant to the state in 2017 to add funding for future projects.
  - ii. SE Inlet Water Quality Treatment Design – Purpose is to develop adequate design and cost information to be used on a grant application for a project that could cost up to \$100,000. SWCD will provide a \$2,600 grant and BLID would be responsible for \$7,000.

Todd and Tiffany exited the meeting.

- 2. The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of October 25, 2016 were distributed and reviewed. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.
- 3. Don presented the financial statements as of December 31, 2016 including balance sheet, income statement and the 2017 Budget Comparison report. After a brief discussion, a motion was moved, seconded and approved to accept the reports and approve the expenses incurred in 2016.
- 4. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, several Board members accepted an invitation from the Green Lake LID Board to hear and discuss proposals for invasive weed treatment from Lake

Restoration, Lake Management, and Clarke Aquatics. On the basis of those presentations, it was recommended to select Clarke Aquatics for the 2017 Curlyleaf Pondweed treatment application based on the following information:

- a. Three-step treatment program includes a pre-treatment assessment, professional application and post-treatment monitoring.
- b. Their Conserve System employs GPS and sonar to manage application flow due to speed and depth.
- c. Pricing includes \$299/acre for average 5 foot depth with additional \$50/foot for over 5 feet.
- d. Provide help with permitting and grants. Staffing capacity to handle many lakes.

After discussion a motion was moved, seconded and approved to authorize George Golden to sign a contract with Clarke Aquatic for the 2017 curlyleaf pondweed treatment.

5. After a brief discussion a motion was moved, seconded and approved to also authorize the signing of contracts with SWCD for water quality monitoring and survey services and with WaterGuards for boat inspection services in 2017.
6. It was noted that the annual meetings for Stanford and Spencer Brook Townships will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. It was important for Board members to attend to support our requests for funding for lake access boat inspection expenses. Particular attention, in terms of getting as many lake residents as possible to attend, needs to be paid to Spencer Brook.
7. The Signature Waiver form relating to 2017 AIS Treatment on the lake was reviewed and approved.
8. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary